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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,754	03/03/2004	Fabiano Picollo	P69551US0	2888

136 7590 10/04/2005

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WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER
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BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/790,754	Applicant(s) PICOLLO, FABIANO	
	Examiner Mark J. Beauchaine	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08).<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1- 9, 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number 4,072,156 by Abe. The coin sorting device disclosed by said '156 patent incorporates holes 16, belt 8, rollers 19 and arms 20 that read on the Applicant's apertures, conveyor belt, pulleys and pin, respectively. Although said patent fails to specifically disclose a resilient arm that repositions rollers in order to force coins through different sized holes, it does disclose coins being forced through holes by means of resilient belt 8. Furthermore, various means of forcing coins through apertures via resilient elements are well known in the art.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a resilient arm in said patent to provide an effective means of forcing coins through apertures.

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Regarding claim 4, said patent incorporates members 15 that read on the Applicant's guide. Regarding claims 6-9, positioning a apertured plate on an incline to the horizontal is an obvious design choice.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over said '156 patent as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 4,230,135 by Ueda. Although the belt 8 of said '156 patent is parallel to the series of guide members 15, the use of a powered conveyor belt inclined towards a coin guide member is well known in the art. Said '135 patent teaches belts 20 that are angled towards guide rail edge 13a. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to incorporate the belt/guide configuration of said '135 patent into said '156 patent to provide an effective means of forcing coins against a guide plate while being transported along a sorting plate.

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over said '156 patent as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 4,178,502 by Zimmermann. Although said '156 patent fails to disclose a selection device, the incorporation of such a feature within a coin sorting device is well known in the art. Said '502 patent teaches scanning head 12 located adjacent to coin sorting section 6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to incorporate said scanning head 12 into the coin sorting device of said '156 patent to provide an effective means of verifying coin characteristics.

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Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over said '156 patent as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 3,818,918 by Nissmo et al. Said '918 patent teaches inclined rotating disc 13 that incorporates retractable pins 20. Said disc and pins read on the Applicant's disc and pins, respectively. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to incorporate the disc/pin configuration of said '918 patent into the coin sorting apparatus of said '156 patent to provide an effective means of transporting coins to an apertured coin sorting plate.

### ***Conclusion***

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Patent Number 4,261,377 by Ueda because of its angled conveyer belts 22a-22c, and

Patent Number 4,230,136 by Heinrichs because of its guide channel 11.

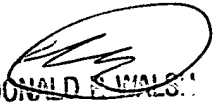
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (571)272-6944. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mjb

  
DONALD P. WALSH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3653